



JAN 21 1997

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Grove, OK 74345  
918-786-5349

17 January 1997

William F. Caton, Acting Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M St., N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

MM DOCKET NO. 87-268  
FCC 96-317

Subject: How the FCC's Digital Television Proposal will affect  
the People of Northeastern Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Caton:

Located approximately 65 miles Northeast of Tulsa Oklahoma and 45 Southwest of Joplin, Missouri is a large recreational area of Oklahoma known as Grand Lake O' Cherokees, with the principle business area being Grove, Oklahoma. Within 5 miles of Grove the population is about 20,000 with around 60,000 in a 20 mile radius. Yes, a small area, but a fantastic place to live; 2 hours to Tulsa and 1 hour to Joplin!

Three years ago after a dialogue with the then Grove School Superintendent, Dr. Bacon (see enclosure) and other area leaders, I saw a need and an opportunity to provide to this community and outlying areas, a public service: A television station dedicated to the people of this area. Due to the rural nature of this area, it can only be served by an over-the-air broadcast television station.

I owned some land where the transmit tower could be located. I had no debt and at 50 years of age I could work with the kids

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in schools and with the people who I had been having coffee with for 20 years. The regional TV stations can't cover our world; Who in Tulsa or Joplin cares about "small town" life in this area? No big advertisers either! I could broadcast the city Council meetings and the school board meetings. People could become more involved in government! The parades, the school concerts and sport events: The elderly and disabled could see them!

If I really counted every penny and worked 16 hours a day, it just might work! I filed with the FCC, with Dr. Bacon's letter and told you, the FCC, what I wanted to do. Since it was not a normal license window, you, the FCC granted me continuing STAs (Special Temporary Authority), to operate my station until I could file for a permanent license at the appropriate time. STAs are valid for 6 months each. I received 3 for 18 months.

I knew that you, the FCC, agreed with me about the importance of what I was doing, else why would you, the FCC, grant me these special operating authorities? After 18 months I received the call letters, K43EF. In March 1996 I received the new call letters, KELF-LP.

After approximately 3 years of operation I have been successful. KELF-LP, due to its mission, is able to devote as much broadcast time as necessary to fully explore area news events, not the typical 10 second sound bite. KELF-LP, jointly with Grove High School, produces a 2 hour news program per week, which we broadcast 3 times during the week. Grove City council meetings and Grove School Board meetings are broadcast. All area public meetings are broadcast. County events are broadcast. The School Science fair is broadcast. School Band Concerts are broadcast, and of course School Sporting events.

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I've worked with the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma and Northeastern Oklahoma A & M College to broadcast Native American programming.

Due to our coverage of City Council and School Board meetings more people are now taking an active part in local government. Our detailed coverage of the sources of pollution of Grand Lake has brought information to the public in a way no other media can.

I am expanding my area news coverage almost daily while broadcasting family entertainment twenty four hours a day, 7 days a week. I have filed, and you have accepted the application and filing fees, for a power and transmitting tower increase, that I may better serve the rural people of this area.

If you revoke my license or discriminate against my opportunity to use technology to continue to serve the needs of the people of the area you will be in violation of the Federal Communication Act of 1934 by failing to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of broadcasting frequencies across the United States.

If you revoke my license my entire efforts at goodwill through community service will be undermined and my future livelihood will be terminated. I will be forced to liquidate my entire assets to retire my debt. At my age and with no assets or hope of time to accumulate assets, I will become destitute. At my age it will be impossible for me to find any employment. The planned actions of the FCC would cause irreparable damage. You will be in violation of the Constitution of the United States, in that I will be deprived of equal protection under the law.

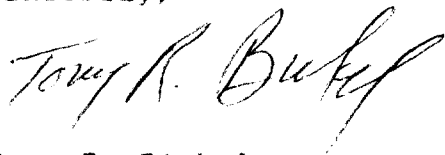
It is unconscionable that the Federal Communications

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Commission would deprive the citizens of Grove and the Grand Lake area of local programming to give additional spectrum to a distant station which cannot possibly serve the needs of those citizens the way KELF-LP is presently doing. This constitutes inefficient use of spectrum.

Please do not allow this to happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tony R. Bickel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Tony R. Bickel  
Licensee of KELF-LP

Enclosure

TRB/jeb

KELF - LP

**Grove Public Schools**

*District I-2*

*P.O. Box 789 ♦ 517 West 10th St.*

*Grove, Oklahoma 74344*

*Telephone: 918-786-3003 ♦ Fax: 918-78-6454*

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August 31, 1993

JAN 21 1997

Mr. Keith A. Larson  
Chief Low Power Television Branch  
Video Services  
Mass Media Bureau  
Federal Communication Commission

Dear Mr. Larson,

The Grove Public School District is very excited about the possibility of having a local over the air channel in Grove, Oklahoma. There is a very real void that needs to be filled through local programming.

Mr. Tony Bickel, the license holder of the proposed VHF Television station and I have worked together on plans that are of not only a high interest to the community but are extremely important to my school district. Our school district sees a local channel as an opportunity to keep the community informed about the important events and accomplishments that take place weekly. Public schools often fall short in their efforts to keep the patrons of the community informed about the school activities and academic efforts.

I am encouraging this effort because I see that our plans for the future includes recognizing outstanding programs, students and teachers. It will include adult education courses that are now currently offered in-house and would allow those adults who are confined to their house or to a bed to take advantage of such course work. It would offer young parents the opportunity to take continuing education courses through the high school and the area Vocational Technical School. It will offer to our students and to their parents an opportunity to develop an appreciation of the historical significance of our community and those who were native to this area.

KELF-LP

Mr. Larson, our school and the community needs this channel and we certainly hope that you consider the advantages of this channel to our school district and its 1800 students. Please accept my thanks in advance for your consideration of this application for a license.

Respectfully yours,

*Herbert Bacon*  
Herbert Bacon Ed.D.  
Superintendent

KELF-LP



# Grove General Hospital

Operated by the Baptist Healthcare of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 1348  
1310 South Main, Grove, Oklahoma 74344  
(918) 786-2243

JAN 21 1997

April 11, 1994

Keith Larson  
Chief, LPTV Branch  
Video Services Division  
Mass Media Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Larson,

Grove General Hospital is a sixty-two bed acute care facility serving nine small communities in Northeastern Oklahoma.

We are very interested in Mr. Tony Bickle's attempts to broaden the coverage of his newly established television station on Grand Lake. The broader coverage would enable our education department to provide badly needed health and wellness education to under served portions of our market area.

We strongly support his efforts and find them to be consistent with the needs of the communities which we serve.

Sincerely,

Randy DuBois  
Administrator

RD/dk

**Randy DuBois**  
Administrator

**Michael VanLear**  
Associate Administrator

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Serving the Grand Lake area for over 25 years